

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SECSTATE FOR NEA/INS ONLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PTECH PFOR IN
SUBJ: KUX TARAPUR MEMORANDUM DRAFT OF FEBRUARY 4

REF: NEW DELHI 2508

1. KUX FEBRUARY 4 DRAFT JUST RECEIVED IN BOMBAY. OUR COMMENTS FOLLOW.

2. CONGEN AGREES WITH NEW DELHI'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN REFTTEL THAT A SECTION BE ADDED ON URGENCY OF DEALING WITH STORAGE PROBLEM SO THAT DECISION MAKERS WILL BE FULLY AWARE THAT ACTION ON XSNM-845 WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT BY ITSELF TO DEAL WITH CURRENT TARAPUR PROBLEM. MOREOVER, AS NOTED BELOW, THE DRAFT IS OVERLY-SANGUINE, IN OUR VIEW, REGARDING COST AND TIME FRAME FOR ALLEVIATING STORAGE PROBLEM.

3. ACTION MEMORANDUM:

A. PAGE 3, LINE 9, SUGGEST INSERTION OF PARENTHETICAL SENTENCES AFTER THE WORD "SUPPLY" ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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PAGE 02 BOMBAY 00457 250616Z

U.S. HEAVY WATER CONSTITUTED ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF THE POOL THAT SERVICED THE RESEARCH REACTOR WHICH PRODUCED THE PLUTONIUM USED IN THE INDIAN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. IN 1974 INDIAN HEAVY WATER AVAILABILITY WAS FIVE TIMES ITS REQUIREMENTS. THIS INSERTION WOULD SHOW THAT U.S. HEAVY WATER WAS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR INDIAN PNE. UNLESS A POINT ALONG THE LINES IS MADE, PAPER WILL LEAVE IMPRESSION THAT INDIA IS UNRELIABLE PARTNER IN NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

B. PAGE 5, SECTION ENTITLED "CONTINUATION" SETS CONDITIONS THAT INDIANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY REJECT AND THEREFORE HARDLY FIT UNDER THIS HEADING. IN PARTICULAR, A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OR FORMAL DIPLOMATIC STATEMENT TO GOI THAT ANOTHER PNE WOULD RESULT IN AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF THE SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOI TO ENTER INTO THE SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURES THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE ADDITIONAL STORAGE FACILITIES THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY. IF IT WERE TO SEEK BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS, THE GOI WOULD EITHER HAVE TO ADMIT IT WAS FOREGOING TESTS AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, OR WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE STORAGE FACILITIES GO UNUSED IF IT DECIDED TO CONTINUE TESTS. THE OTHER STATEMENTS AT THE END OF THE SECTION ENTITLED CONTINUATION REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION OF SAFEGUARDS ON NATIONALLY CONSTRUCTED FACILITIES SUCH AS THOSE AT KALPAKKAM SUGGEST THAT THEY ARE POSSIBLY ATTAINABLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESUPPLY OF TARAPUR, WHEREAS OUR INFORMAL DISCUSSION INDICATE THAT THE INDIANS HAVE ALREADY RULED OUT SUCH A DEAL.

4. ANNEX 1.

A. PAGE 2, LAST LINE, FIRST FULL PARAGRAPH, "ONE YEAR'S" SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "FIVE MONTHS." THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT FOR FRESH UF6 FOR TARAPUR IS 21 TONS AND THE "INTERIM SHIPMENT" COVERED ONLY 9 TONS.

B. PAGE 6 LAST LINE OF THE SECOND FULL PARAGRAPH ON THIS PAGE WHICH READS, "SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1977" SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ, "NOW BELIEVED TO BE OPERATIONAL." THE REPROCESSING PLANT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOMBAY 00457 250616Z

ITSELF IS COMPLETED. THE WASTE SOLIDIFICATION PLANT IS STILL IN FINAL THROES OF CONSTRUCTION BUT IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO MODEST-SIZE RUNS OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT ITSELF.

C. PAGE 7, FIRST LINE, DELETE WORD "SUMMER" AND REPLACE BY "FALL."

D. PAGE 7, THIRD PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE REWRITTEN TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(I) RE-RACKING, NOT A SIMPLE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF RACKS, IS REQUIRED AND THIS WOULD INVOLVE USE OF NEUTRON-ABSORBING MATERIAL WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPORTED AND FOR WHICH WESTERN NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS WOULD HAVE TO ISSUE NECESSARY EXPORT LICENSES. WHETHER SEVERAL YEARS' ADDITIONAL STORAGE COULD BE ACQUIRED THROUGH THIS MEANS DEPENDS UPON LOAD-BEARING CAPABILITY OF EXISTING ELEVATED STORAGE POOLS. SETHNA DOUBTS THAT THESE STRUCTURES WILL TAKE MUCH MORE LOAD THAN THEY ARE NOW CARRYING.

(II) POINT SHOULD ALSO BE MADE THAT IMMEDIATE START ON STORAGE

EXPANSION IS REQUIRED BECAUSE ONCE POOLS ARE FULL IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE NEW RACKS. AS THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL STORAGE CAPACITY IN INDIA FOR TARAPUR-TYPE SPENT FUEL ASSEMBLIES AFTER OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR, AN EARLY START IS ESSENTIAL.

5. ANNEX 2, PAGE 3, LAST SENTENCE, FIRST PARAGRAPH IS PROBABLY OVER-DRAWN AS IAEC HAS ALREADY INTRODUCED SPENT FUEL FROM OTHER REACTORS INTO TARAPUR REPROCESSING PLANT RECEIVING POOL. IT EVIDENTLY HAS INTENTION TO USE THIS FUEL IN TRIAL RUNS IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO; CONSEQUENTLY THE WORD "MOTH BALLS" IS AN OVER-STATEMENT.

6. ANNEX 3.

A. PAGE 4, SECOND COMPLETE PARAGRAPH ON THAT PAGE. THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE REVISED IF ABOVE SUGGESTIONS ON COST AND TIME FRAME FOR EXPANDING STORAGE FACILITIES AT TARAPUR ARE ACCEPTED.
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PAGE 04 BOMBAY 00457 250616Z

B. SECTION BEGINNING AT BOTTOM OF PAGE 4 LISTS A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS THAT WE WOULD SET FOR CONTINUATION OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA THAT WOULD SEEM POSSIBLE ONLY IF INDIA DID NOT NEED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURES TO SOLVE THE CURRENT STORAGE PROBLEM. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE GOI WOULD, IN EFFECT, HAVE TO TELL ITS PARLIAMENT THAT IT MIGHT GET ONLY LIMITED VALUE FROM THE STORAGE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION IF IT ADHERES TO ITS CURRENT TEST POLICY.
COURTNEY

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